

THE SUBURBAN and COUNTRY HOME

FLOWERS, FRUITS and VEGETABLES

EDITED by EDWARD C. VICK

Lilium Candidum or Madonna Lily

Lilium candidum, a native of southern Europe, was introduced in 1596, making it the oldest lily in cultivation. It is not only the loveliest of lilies but the hardiest of the white lilies. Some gardeners may be inclined to dispute the hardness of this lily, probably from the fact that they have purchased what looked like fine, strong bulbs, but were not careful to inquire where they were grown.

Great quantities of candidum lily bulbs are grown in the warm climate of southern France, and these bulbs planted in the autumn do not stand our severe winters well, while bulbs from northern France can be depended on to thrive if properly treated.

Ben Jonson referred to the madonna lily when he asked: "Have you seen out a white lily blow?" Masterlinck said of it: "The great white lily, the old lord of the gardens, the only authentic prince among all the comelinesses (meaning from the kitchen garden, the ditches, the copes, the pools and the moors, among the strangers come from none-known where, with his invariable six petalled chalice of silver, whose nobility dates back to that of the gods themselves—the immortal lily raises his ancient sceptre, august, inviolate, which centres around it a zone of chastity, science and light."

H. S. Adams in his book on lilies says: "Either of these quotations is appealing enough to bring to every American dooryard that knows it not the lily of lilies—the emblem of purity, the inspiration of the poet and painter for centuries, and a benediction in the garden when June is melting into July."

An old memorandum book, presented by my father, when I was a lad of

twelve or thirteen years of age, has just been found. On the first page is pasted the list of lilies he was offering in his catalogue at that time, a dozen or more varieties. How well I remember it! It seems but as yesterday.

The object was to watch the beds where the lilies were growing, studying the different varieties, making notes from time to time for future reference. Well, here is an opportunity to follow the old notes.

Candidum lily is described as growing four feet high, bearing pure white flowers "on top" and as "the earliest one of the nicest lilies," meaning the earliest flowering.

The candidum lily should have first of all a well drained situation. It prefers a light soil, either somewhat open, such as soil with sandy particles in it, or a soil rich in leaf mould. Heavy soil can be improved by adding sand liberally or soil from the woods. Commercial humus is excellent for all lilies.

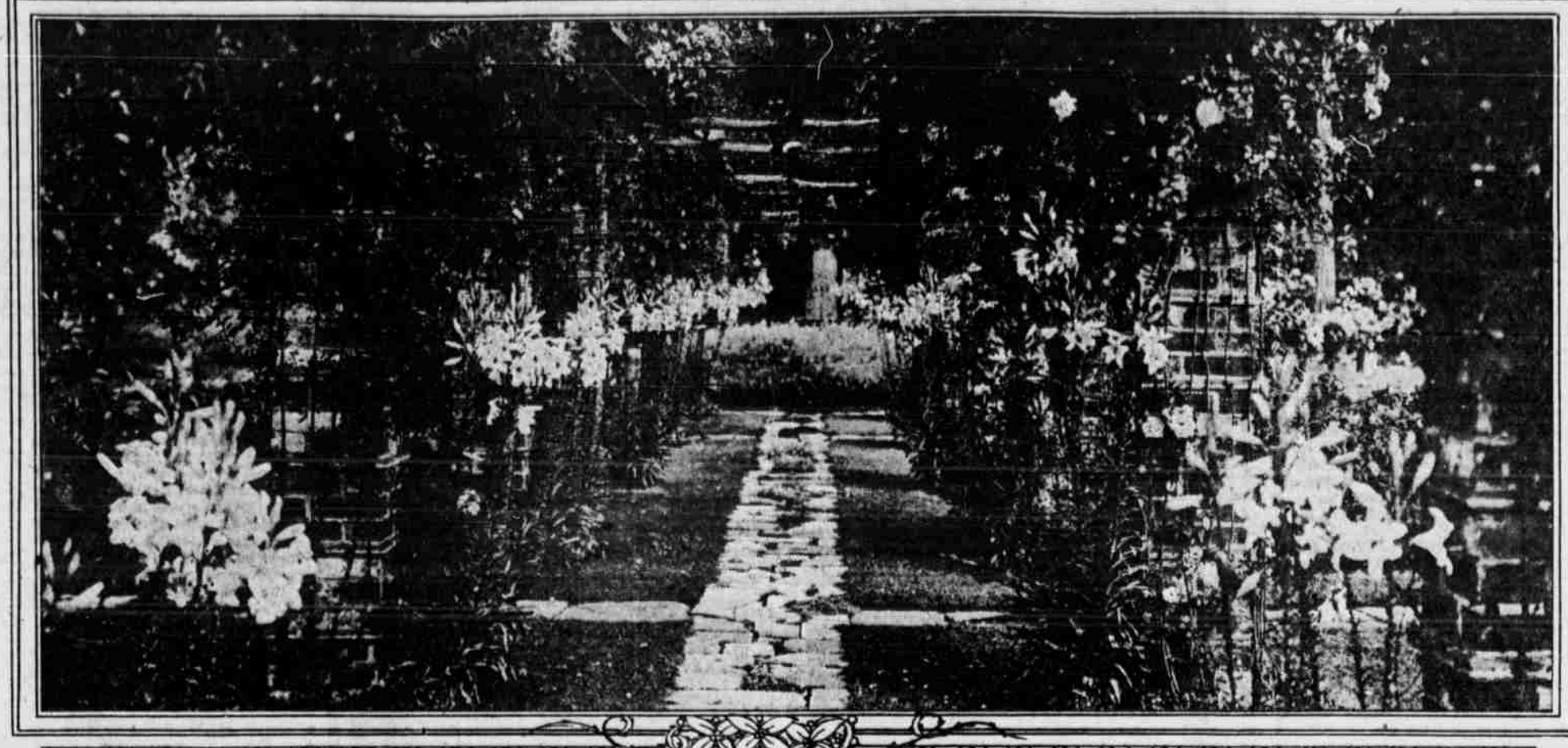
In heavy soil good results have been obtained by covering the ground a foot deep with commercial humus when preparing the bed and thoroughly mixing this with the soil in digging it up.

Lily beds should be deeply dug; not less than two feet deep, and three feet deep is better.

In digging the soil deeply in gardens the bottom soil should always be kept down at the bottom, where it originally lay.

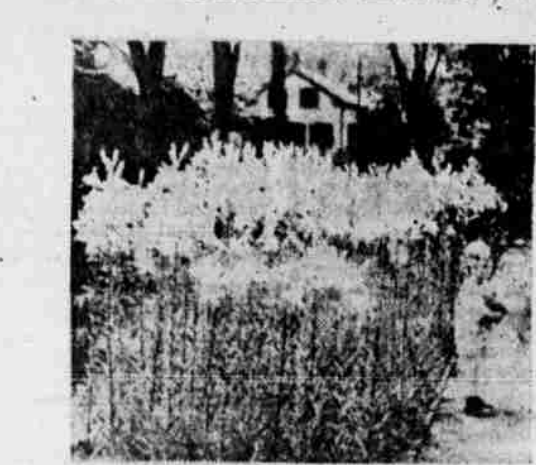
The perfect preparation of a lily bed is best obtained by throwing out the top soil. Usually this is two feet deep.

When the top soil has been removed a quantity of well rotted manure is thrown into the excavation, and this is forked under in the soil



Pergola at Hallingbury, England.

Plant Madonna Lilies Now



Our Genuine Northern France Lilium Candidum, which is the surest, hardiest type, immune from the disease and ailments to which the other types are frequently subjected, will produce, if planted now, a most successful display of flowers as depicted above, by next June. Delivered in original French Hampers containing one hundred finest and largest bulbs at \$30 per hamper.

JOHN SCHEEPERS, INC.

Purveyors to the private trade of Highest Quality Bulbs
No. 2 Stone Street, New York City.

If Seven Million Farmers "Put Their Heads Together".

Suppose the farmers who run our seven million farms could all gather in a big meeting and discuss the problems of farming. What would they decide? What would they do? The methods which brought them their present success would be discussed, and the best of them would be adopted. The result would be a new era of farming, one in which the farmer would be able to produce more and better crops with less labor and less expense. This is the goal of the Farmers' Union, and it is the goal of every farmer who is interested in the future of his country.

Pooling the Country's Best Farming Methods

Let of course, these seven million farmers cannot all get together and discuss their problems. But they can get together in a different way. They can get together in a book. A book that will tell them the best farming methods of the country. A book that will tell them the best ways to produce more and better crops with less labor and less expense. This is the goal of the Farmers' Union, and it is the goal of every farmer who is interested in the future of his country.

A \$50,000 Work

At a cost of over \$50,000, the Farmers' Union has produced a book that will tell the farmer the best farming methods of the country. This book is the result of a long and careful study of the best farming methods of the country. It is a book that every farmer should have. It is a book that will tell him the best ways to produce more and better crops with less labor and less expense. This is the goal of the Farmers' Union, and it is the goal of every farmer who is interested in the future of his country.

What Would Happen?
There are about seven million farms in this country. Suppose the heads of each of these farms got together and discussed the problems of farming. What would they decide? What would they do? The methods which brought them their present success would be discussed, and the best of them would be adopted. The result would be a new era of farming, one in which the farmer would be able to produce more and better crops with less labor and less expense. This is the goal of the Farmers' Union, and it is the goal of every farmer who is interested in the future of his country.

Interesting Booklet
Sears, Roebuck & Co. is publishing a very interesting and helpful booklet, "The Secret of Success in Farming." This booklet will tell the farmer the best farming methods of the country. It is a booklet that every farmer should have. It is a booklet that will tell him the best ways to produce more and better crops with less labor and less expense. This is the goal of the Farmers' Union, and it is the goal of every farmer who is interested in the future of his country.

Sears, Roebuck & Co.
Dept. 6239NA
Chicago, Ill.

in the bottom, mixing it well with the soil in the operation. The next best thing to old manure is commercial humus. Humus should also be mixed in large quantities with the top soil, but manure is unsuitable for this purpose.

In beds properly prepared the bulbs may be planted six inches deep. In heavy soil four inches is sufficient. Eight to nine inches apart is as close as they should be placed. Plant the bulbs as soon as they can be obtained in the autumn.

The best location is one sheltered from the wind, which will blow the stems about and break them.

Lilies grow well in the shrubbery or perennial border. Low growing plants shade the base of the stems from the hot sun, which is beneficial, and the plants also shade the ground, keeping it moist and cool in hot weather.

Lilies like warmth and sunshine, but unless there is a cool bottom they cannot stand the hot sun.

When the bulbs are planted leave them undisturbed for years, until the bed becomes too crowded. Then they should be dug and replanted as soon as the stems dry down, after flowering.

SAVING AND STORING SEED CORN.

Selecting seed from the field or garden while standing gives one an opportunity to get large well matured ears to get produced under normal conditions and not the result of exceptional opportunity for sunlight and growth.

In setting the bulbs it is a good plan to place them on about an inch of sand, afterwards covering the bulbs slightly over the top, also with sand.

The flowers should be cut just as they begin to fade and the stems as soon as they dry up.

As soon as the ground freezes lightly mulch with humus or spent manure from a hotbed or mushroom bed. In the spring work this into the top soil, being careful not to damage the shoots that may be trying to break through.

Lilies will not stand wet soil, and will therefore require water during the hot dry weather which we frequently have in summer.

Some lilies which grow naturally in northern New York and in parts of Canada cannot be depended on to stand the winters along the Atlantic coast. The reason is that farther north they have a heavy coating of snow, while around the coast frequently the ground is bare during the coldest weather of winter and the frost goes down deep, while the protection of snow in the north affords a natural mulch that saves the bulbs.

This suggests the necessity here of a good mulch of leaves thrown over the mulch of humus, unless spent manure is used, which will answer the same purpose.

In summer a mulch of lawn clippings is desirable to keep the soil cool and moist.

Lilies are increased by means of bulblets produced about the base of the stems. These are removed and sown in pots or shallow boxes in a conservatory or greenhouse in the early spring. The young plants require two or three years to make flowering size bulbs.

It may be interesting to know that the lily derives its name from the Celtic word li, meaning whiteness, as it was considered an emblem of purity.

Lilium candidum is a favorite with florists for pot culture. The bulbs are potted singly in eight inch pots as soon as the bulbs can be obtained. Potting soil composed of rotted turf with which a little sharp sand is mixed is used.

No fertilizer is combined with the soil. The bulbs are set about an inch below the surface of the earth in the pot.

The pots are set in a cold frame.

Plant Strawberries

This Fall

NOW is the time to plant strawberries. Have large, delicious, fresh strawberries on your table next June—right from your own garden.

Pot grown strawberry plants of the Superb Everbearing variety.

25.00 per dozen \$10.00 per 100
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J. G. MAYO & COMPANY
601 Elvenger & Henry Building
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

plunged to the rim in earth. Growth soon begins when water is given freely. At the approach of frost the pots are covered with leaves. Later, as the weather demands, the frames are covered with sash, care being exercised not to permit heat to generate, which would stimulate early growth. Freezing is also prevented.

About the first of January the pots of bulbs are brought into a cool house from time to time, to obtain a succession of bloom. An abundance of light and air is necessary. A temperature of 60 degrees is given by day and 40 degrees by night. About ten weeks is required to bring them into flower.

After flowering the pots are put away under the benches until the bulbs can be planted in the open ground. Here they are permitted to rest for two years before they are grown again in pots.

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"compost" manure properly it should be treated as follows:
Pile all manure in heaps with alternate layers of soil or other litter. Keep it wet enough so it will not burn. Let it stand a whole year through summer and winter, turning it over two or three times during the year. It will then be ready for use on the lawns and danger from weed seed will be minimized.

Many object to the use of manure at all, not only because of the danger from weed seeds, but because of its unsightly and insanitary appearance.

These will undoubtedly prefer to use something else, and the most economical substitute is finely ground bone or bone meal. This should be applied at the rate of from 600 pounds to one ton an acre, according as the ground is more or less rich.

With the bone meal it is desirable to use double the quantity of wood ashes, which may be mixed with the bone meal or sown separately. These ashes contain considerable lime in a very desirable form, as well as other valuable elements. However, they are apt to be more or less costly.

All applications should be made before the ground freezes permanently for the winter, as otherwise the fertilizer may be largely washed from the soil before it has a chance to become incorporated with it.

In regions where cottonseed meal may be obtained at a price not over \$25 a ton it may be used satisfactorily in the place of the ground bone.

Prepared sheep manure is an excellent dressing. As it has been sterilized by drying and rendered odorless, there are not the objections to it that there might be to ordinary manure. Its one candidate.

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drawback is expensiveness. The claim of this product being sterilized may be doubtful. Much of the prepared sheep manure is full of live weed and grass seed, and will do as much harm as good to the lawn by covering it with weeds. Test sheep manure for weed seed before using it. If there are parts of the lawn which will